
ICANN74 | Prep Week – What to Expect at ICANN74 - A Guide for Newcomers
Tuesday, May 31, 2022 – 18:00 to 19:00 AMS

ADAM PEAKE:

Thank you very much. Hello and welcome to the What to Expect at ICANN74: A Guide for Newcomers. And my name is Adam Peake. and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. I'll be also one of the speakers.

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MAGALI JEAN: Adam, sorry.

ADAM PEAKE: This session—

MAGALI JEAN: Sorry to interrupt, but you are speaking a bit too fast for the interpreters.

ADAM PEAKE:

Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, natural pace is not too good.

This session includes automated real-time transcription. Please note this transcript is not official or authoritative. I cannot speak English either but too quickly. To view the real-time transcription, click on the Closed Caption button in the Zoom toolbar.

And so with that I'll pass over to our first speaker, who is Maarten Botterman, chair of the ICANN Board of Directors. So, over to you, Maarten, please.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Thank you very much, Adam, for this. If it's possible, I wouldn't mind if people see the speaker. Maybe next to the slides or instead of the slides. Is that possible?

ADAM PEAKE:

I think for you it may be. I don't know. Magali, can you just highlight Maarten? Or does that change your screensharing?

MAGALI JEAN:

I don't think it... Let me see.

ADAM PEAKE:

Yeah, we're. I'm afraid it may not be possible.

MAGALI JEAN:

I don't see that. No, no.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: If you do View Options side-by-side panel, then you can see both Adam and me, I think. I'm saying it because one of the important aspects of meeting is indeed meeting and seeing and recognizing each other.

So with that, I really would like to welcome you all to this newcomer session for ICANN74 and its preparation week. A very important session for newcomers because ICANN is a complex animal. But it's really good to understand why and how to best engage with that.

So for those of you that are planning to attend in person next week in The Hague, looking forward to meet you there. For those that will be attending remotely, rest assured we'll do the best we can to make sure that also participants can participate remotely adequately to the sessions. This, after two years of virtual meetings, will be a challenge to us all. And really look forward to make the best of it together.

So having new people come to ICANN is crucial for us, because ICANN is run by its global stakeholders from different communities. And, as you know, the world changes. So it's good if we keep fresh and continuously have newcomers to help with those that have the experience for a long time. And this mix makes us so strong. And it keeps us going, delivering on our mission. Which is the secure and the stable provision of addresses on the Internet so you can actually reach each other.

So the multistakeholder model that is underpinning this works because of people like yourself, representing different sectors, choose to

actively participate in different ICANN structures. And engage in the policy development process.

Rather than at other organizations, as chairman of the board, we are not a board who sets the policies, who sets the priorities. We're here to support you in doing that. And making sure that, when you do, our check is whether it's legal. Whether it's in line with the bylaws. Whether it's reasonable. But not to determine the direction. That is really up to the Community. And the organization will support that.

There will be more during this session to explain that deeper. But this is really your chance to see which part of ICANN interests you. And maybe find a segment to focus into. There's a great ICANN org support team that supports me and the rest of the ICANN Board on a daily basis. And they're here to support you as well.

And in Europe they've been very, very active in engaging newcomers to the ICANN system. And I'm very happy that this opportunity to learn together has been done here. So with that, I'd like to turn things back to Adam, I guess. Or Chris?

ADAM PEAKE:

Yes. So, thank you very much. Thank you very much, Maarten. And we can pass along to Chris Mondini. So, Chris, over to you.

CHRIS MONDINI:

Hello, greetings, and welcome. I'm delighted to see such a healthy turnout for this event. And very excited to welcome you.

If you're here, you very clearly care about the global Internet and its health and its future. And I couldn't be more delighted as we work our way into ICANN74 to give you a flavor of what to expect by introducing this webinar. I'm Chris Mondini. I'm based in Brussels. I'm responsible for the Europe region, which are 39 ICANN Organization employees in 15 countries, supporting you, the Community, and our technical and operational partners.

Just briefly, as you are all Internet fans, you'll understand that really the global Internet only seems like a single network. It is in actuality a network of networks, tens of thousands of voluntarily connected networks. That are independently owned and operated. And they agree to exchange data and interconnect using a system of common protocols and standards.

And it's distributed. It's diverse. It's voluntary. It's bottom-up. And really was designed to have no single point of control or single point of capture. But try as they might the inventors of this wondrous technology could not figure out a way to decentralize one important aspect. Which is a common addressing system.

The unique identifiers that connect all of us and all of our devices, these are numeric addresses, IP addresses found in all of our devices. And now we are up to many tens of billions devices around the world connected. Or domain names or web addresses and we have hundreds of billions of those, which you all use on a regular basis.

And this is a system that continues to expand. Has connected more than half the globe's population. And we're working with people like you to connect the next billion internet users.

We really do two things at the ICANN organization. On the one hand, we work with the technical and operational partners to make available these addresses. So through regional organizations or other technical bodies. If you're manufacturing devices or setting up networks or setting up websites, we have the systems in place to technically operate and provide everything you need to do that.

And then, because the Internet's addressing systems are not static, they evolve. We convene a community. And that's what we will be doing online and at The Hague in the coming days. and what you will be joining us for. To evolve and innovate, the Internet's addressing system, this crucial system that keeps us connected.

Some innovations include things like domain names that are expressed in diverse alphabets or scripts around the world. Also an expansion of domain names. Top-level domain names, for example, generic top-level domain names, the security extensions for the domain name system. They could be security enhancements. All of these will be under discussion and development by the community at ICANN74.

I want to close by saying all of us started at one point as a newcomer. So whether you're online, in a chat, or you make it to The Hague to chat with us, ask people you meet about their first experience with ICANN. They will be happy to share their journey with you. And I hope it will inspire you.

And secondly, because after such a long time this our first truly hybrid meeting after two and a half years, I think many of us will feel like newcomers. And we're happy to have you on this journey with us. And thank you again so much for joining. Thanks, Adam.

ADAM PEAKE:

Thanks very much, Chris, and I think it's now over to me, actually. So Magali, could you please move the slides? So here we are.

What is ICANN? And my name's Adam Peake. I'm responsible for our engagement with civil society at ICANN. The next slide, please, Magali.

So, yeah, unique names and numbers as Chris mentioned. And really it's all in the name, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. That's what we do. We're responsible for the unique assignment of names and addresses on the Internet. And this system of names, addresses, and how they resolve and work together is really collectively known as the DNS, the Domain Name System.

So anything that's really connected to the Internet—computers, mobile phones, other devices—will have a unique identifier, a unique number called an IP address. This address is a bit like a postal address. It allows messages, videos, and other packets of data to be sent anywhere on the Internet. And they will be uniquely identified.

If it wasn't uniquely assigned, then your packets of information would probably go to the wrong place. You don't want there to be two icann.orgs because you won't know which one you really want to go to.

So unique assignment is at the heart of what we do. And we do this globally, which is incredibly important, of course.

Computers across the networks, the routers and all the different systems use numbers, numeric addresses. And you can see an example there, fd84: etc. That's called an IPv6 address, Internet Protocol version 6. There are shorter numbers, Internet Protocol version 4, IPv4. And these are the numbers that computers will use. And these are very difficult for us to remember. And to type into our browsers and so on.

I'll give you an example of that. If you have your browser open and it doesn't close your Zoom window, try typing in 192.0.33.8. That was 192.0.33.8. What you should see resolve is a web page for IANA. IANA is the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, which is a subsidiary of ICANN.

And this is basically what happens all the time. Because of the domain name system and the systems that ICANN administers across the global Internet. And with five billion users and about 70 billion of these resolving requests happening every day, this is an incredible global system. And one that we're all, of course, hoping that you will become part of.

So that's essentially what we do. The next part is really our mission. So the next slide, please, Magali.

Mission, Values, and Role, so the next slide. Here we are. So ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. We're talking

about the secure, stable operation of the Internet unique identifier system. And there are five main things that we do.

Coordinating the allocation of names—top-level domain names—into the root zone. This is something that you will hear about a lot during the ICANN74 meeting if you join something called SubPro, which Carlos may talk about a little bit more. Or I might talk about a little bit more later on in this session. But we coordinate the new allocation and the coordination of top-level domain names.

We coordinate specifically the development of policies for second-level domain names in the generic top-level domain name system. A generic top-level domain name is something like .com or .org or .net. And a second level is icann.org. ICANN is the second level. So we coordinate policies for the registration and so on of all that. Again, this is the heart of what happens at ICANN74.

We facilitate the coordination and development of the DNS root server system. This is the central part of the hierarchy of how domain name resolution happens. And you will learn more about that, I'm sure, probably on the ICANN Learn website, which many of you will have looked at.

And we also take care mainly through the IANA, which I mentioned—IANA being, again, the organization that's an ICANN subsidiary, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority. And we coordinate the allocation of other Internet protocol standards with other development organizations, technical development organization. And we can have a look at these partners, because ICANN doesn't do all this alone.

Next slide, please. We work with others, of course, to make the Internet work. And you can see some others here. Root server operators that I mentioned. The Internet Engineering Task Force, which you'll hear as the IETF. Asia-Pacific Network Information Center, this is a regional group that allocates IP addresses to organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. There are five of these across all of the globe.

And the World Wide Web consortium, which develops standards for the Web, standards of HTML, etc. And then beyond the technical partners, there are also policy partners, so the next slide, please.

ICANN develops policy. Hopefully you'll become involved in that. But there are many others working around other areas of digital policy. The Diplo Foundation you might have heard about. I'm sure you've heard of the Internet Governance Forum, the IGF. And many of the national and regional organizations that work on this. And there are also groups that work on spam and other security-related problems.

We work with the World Intellectual Property Organization for intellectual property issues. So, yeah, it all continues in this way. Partners making the Internet work for all of us. And how do we do it? Well, the next slide, please.

So what is ICANN? Here we have the basic ecosystem of what you as participants will be getting involved in here. The Community, the Board, and the organization. So we're a global multistakeholder community of volunteers. They're drawn from different stakeholder groups. You see examples—business, civil society, technical, users, academia, governments. And there's a special home for you and all of

these different types of organization as part of the ICANN global multistakeholder community.

These groups come together and develop policy. And Carlos, my colleague, will explain this in the coming slides, how this policy is developed and who is involved in it in more detail. But the idea is that, once policy is developed through very clearly defined processes that can be judged to have been followed, those outcomes, those recommendations are passed to the Board of Directors.

Maarten is Chair of the Board. And these are drawn also from representatives of the global community. So the directors, the Board, come from the global multistakeholder community. And they evaluate if the policy has followed due process. If it's financially responsible. If it meets certain public interest criteria.

And if all these things have been found to be true, correct, then we move on to an implementation stage. And this is a role for the ICANN Org. ICANN Org is our name for the ICANN staff group. That's me and Chris and Siranush and others you will hear from. And our job is, on the one hand, to support the community as Maarten mentioned. But also to help with implementation.

So that's basically the Community. And the Community we hope that you as newcomers to ICANN will become involved with. The next slide, please.

And there are really two main parts of this. The policymaking part, there are divided into three supporting organizations. And Carlos will go into

more detail. There's a supporting organization representing Internet Protocol addresses. There's a supporting organization that develops policy for generic top-level domain names.

And there's a supporting organization for country code top-level domain names. Country codes which I've not mentioned. Think of .nl for the Netherlands or .de for Germany and so on. These tend to be the two-letter abbreviations representing different individual countries.

And then there are groups that provide advice and advisory committees. And representatives here of governments and international organizations who provide advice from the government and policy perspective. Root server operators are an advisory committee. Security advisor experts have an advisory committee. And, very importantly, of course, the Internet end users who are also represented in these structures. So if we can go to the next slide, please.

And this is about ICANN and our global presence. And we're all very pleased to, well, help in any way we can. So with that, I think the next slide. And I'll pass along Carlos for the next part of this presentation. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES:

Thank you, Adam. And hello, everyone. My name is Carlos Reyes and I'm part of the policy development support function at ICANN Org. And I'll be explaining a little bit about how the policy development mission of ICANN works. And the role of the three parts of ICANN as Adam outlined. Next slide, please.

So we have three supporting organizations. These are outlined in the ICANN bylaws. The three supporting organizations have their own policy remit. And the three are the Address Supporting Organization, the Country Code Name Supporting Organization, and the Generic Name Supporting Organization.

Together, these three supporting organizations develop policies for the ICANN Board to review. And, if the ICANN Board determines that each supporting organization followed their policy development process, then they will direct ICANN Org to implement those policies. As the name suggests for the Generic Name Supporting Organization, this group deals with policies related to generic top-level domains. And the Country Code Name Supporting Organization deals with policies for the country code top-level domains.

The Address Supporting Organization is a little bit different. They deal with policies for global Internet number resources. And one important distinction here is that there's still a lot of regional policy development work. Adam mentioned we work closely with the regional Internet registries. Those regional Internet registries have their own communities. And they develop policies for their regions. So within ICANN the remit is global. Next slide, please.

This is a very busy infographic but I encourage you to review it on the ICANN website. It's also available in the UN languages and a few other languages. But essentially what this highlights is that every supporting Organization has a distinct policy development process.

So oftentimes when we hear about policy development at ICANN, it's usually the GNSO. And that's just because the Generic Name Supporting Organization has the most work items. And the issues they consider are cross cutting. Whereas the Country Code Name Supporting Organization, as I mentioned, are just the country code top-level domains. And the ASO, because of its global remit at ICANN, most of the issues are handled at the regional level. But this infographic explains the policy development process for all three groups.

Some common themes across the policy development work of the supporting organizations. They all have some sort of scoping step. It provides for the adequate amount of introspection to ensure that whatever issue is up for discussion is actually within the remit of the mission of that supporting organization. And that the community of that supporting organization wants to take it on as a work item. That there are questions to consider and the potential recommendations to make. So that's pretty common across the three supporting organizations.

After this step we usually see some sort of working group. And this is really the core of ICANN Community work. This is where we see the sessions that happen at ICANN public meetings and the calls that happen in between those meetings. This is where you see the multistakeholder model in action. You see discussion. You see debate. You see compromise, ultimately, with the goal of achieving consensus. And reaching consensus is fundamental to ICANN because it's one of the factors that determines our legitimacy.

These global policies are respected and implemented because they come from the bottom-up Community. So it's something that's unique to ICANN. And the three supporting organizations enshrine that in their processes. Once a working group finishes its deliberations, it'll usually produce some type of report or a policy recommendation. Those recommendations, then go to the council of the supporting organizations.

All three supporting organizations have a council to manage the policy development work of that supporting organization. And these councils check that the policy development process was conducted appropriately. And ultimately they can consider the recommendations of the report and then forward them along to the ICANN board.

So again I encourage you to review this infographic at your own pace and perhaps in another language to make it more accessible to you. But it really highlights the unique policy role of the ICANN Community in the ICANN bylaws. Next slide, please.

So the other component of the ICANN Community is the advisory committees. We have four advisory committees within the ICANN Community. And each advisory committee provides some sort of specific functional or other perspective to the ICANN Board and the ICANN Community.

We have the At-Large Advisory Committee, which expresses the interests of Internet end users. And the at-large community more broadly is regionally set up. So we have different regional at-large

organizations and at-large structures that inform the advice of the At-Large Advisory Committee.

We also have the Governmental Advisory Committee. This is the platform for governmental input at ICANN. And they consider the intersection of ICANN policy work and public policy. So if you're interested in that type of work, you can observe the GAC. Of course, the GAC is only open to governments. And also international governmental organizations can observe. But that is the mechanism by which ICANN receives input from governments.

The Root Service System Advisory Committee comprises the 12 root server operators as well as other partners in the management of the root zone. So if you'd like to learn about the root server system and how the root servers operate the root server system or what measurements and metrics they use to ensure the root server system remains stable and available to all users. You could participate in the Root Server System Advisory Committee Caucus. That is the open group within RSSAC and where the working groups happen. And they develop recommendations for RSSAC to publish to the board.

The final advisory committee is the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. These are security experts that advise ICANN on matters related to the integrity of the DNS. So there's a lot of technical work happening within the ICANN Community as well. Next slide, please.

Similarly, every Advisory Committee has a process by which they take input from their members and then develop advice. So this infographic

is also available on the ICANN website in multiple languages. And I encourage you to review it.

But again some common themes—there’s also a scoping phase here. This is very important to every ICANN Community group. Because if an ICANN Community group is going to allocate resources, meaning the time and skills of their members, they want to ensure that it's an issue that is relevant to them. And that they can develop advice that the ICANN Board can consider. Hopefully that advice is tangible and specific so that it can really advance the policy development work of the supporting organizations. Next slide, please.

So as we prepare for ICANN74, we do have resources available for all of these groups. The Address Supporting Organization publishes policy updates. The Country Code Name Supporting Organization and the Generic Name Supporting Organization also publish their updates and their agendas for different sessions. So if you're interested in perhaps learning about some of the upcoming PDPs, policy development process working groups, during ICANN74 I encourage you to look at those resources.

And then the advisory committees also publish agendas. The At-Large Advisory Committee does and the GAC does. And if you'd like to learn more about the publications that the Root Server System Advisory Committee and the SSAC, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, have published, we do have those available online as well.

For a bigger picture look at ICANN74, we have the Policy Outlook Report. And then, of course, ICANN74 Prep Week you're participating in

the first session today. All of the materials that you see shared during a Prep Week session are published on the website.

So we encourage you to review those materials as you build your schedule and decide how to participate during ICANN74. Of course, to do all of that, please register. Registration is very important because that's how you receive the remote participation information if you're going to be joining us online. And you can also allocate seats for ICANN74 through registration. Next slide, please.

So how to participate. Obviously you're interested in ICANN and ICANN public meetings. So perhaps you're already thinking about joining one of the open community groups or also observing a work session. Very few are closed. In fact ICANN encourages transparency, so you can often join and observe a working group session. Or you can also participate via public comment.

Right now there are no proceedings. But that's somewhat typical in that we see public comment pick up right after a public meeting when groups finish proposals and then perhaps in the lead-up to an ICANN public meeting as well when groups want to deliver something in their policy or advice development process. So keep an eye out for public comment opportunities. And those are some ways that you can participate that build on some of our newcomer programs that provide a basic overview of ICANN. Next slide, please.

And I think that's it.

ADAM PEAKE:

Yes. Thank you, thank you, Carlos. So it's back to me. And remember that if you have questions that you can use the Q & A pod or even in the chat. We will be able to take these and read your comments.

So, yeah, I want to tell you a little bit about the sessions and topics of interest for ICANN74. Could we have the next slide? Thanks, Magali.

So it's a policy forum and importantly it's the first hybrid ICANN public meeting. So it's the first time we've tried the hybrid format. I won't try and explain this now. But I'm going to send a link in the chat to a session that will take place on Thursday at 22:00 Central European Summer Time. And this is where our representative people from our meetings team will explain both the hybrid format, which is very important for all participants. And how we interact, both as online and in-person, on-site participants. And also the COVID measures that we have in place for the meeting. So please take a look at that, very important to try and register for that one.

Policy forums are interesting. You know, we have a three-meeting annual cycle for ICANN, and the policy forum, it's always the second. It's usually held in June. It's shorter. It's about policy as the name suggests. Dedicated to the work of the supporting organizations and the advisory committees that Carlos has explained for us.

We often have regional outreach activities. But these have been very much curtailed. So we're not doing as much as we might do in outreach and engagement locally, because of the COVID measures we want to

put in place. We want everybody who attends an ICANN meeting to be able to get home safely. That's pretty important. The Hague is a great place to live, but you don't want to stay for an extra seven or 10 days.

And the policy forum, as I said, it's generally smaller. The highlights are when the supporting organizations and the advisory committees and other stakeholder groups meet each other and discuss where they are in a policy development process. The meetings between the Board and the leaderships and memberships of the supporting organizations and advisory committees are always very popular and interesting. You're seeing policy really progress through the process that Carlos described with that flow chart.

Prep Week now is always very important, particularly for newcomers. Because you'll get a sense of what's going on in the meeting, in the policy processes that people have been working on online for months and months and months, sometimes. And we always do this. ICANN always works online and comes together three times a year when we can in these meetings to progress the work, hopefully back in person.

So the Prep Week sessions are where you as newcomers can really get up to speed with some of the key issues that are going on. Always be aware of acronyms. ICANN, being an acronym itself, loves acronyms. And it's shorthand. People who know them use them very easily. If you don't know, be confident. Just ask.

If someone says DAAR, which is D-A-A-R, domain abuse activity reporting, if you don't know what it is just ask. Ask in the chat. Ask

anybody you see around the meeting. Everybody starts somewhere. And I don't know all the acronyms, I promise you.

So, thinking about that, we've got some highlights on the screen. As I mentioned, the health and safety standards and also how the hybrid meeting process will actually go forward. That's a session during Prep Week on Thursday of this week, June the 2nd.

Tech Day is always interesting. This is taking part, it's the first day of ICANN74. It's the afternoon on Monday, June the 13th. And it's in three sessions. It's organized by the Country Code Name Supporting Organization, the country code TLD managers, ccTLDs. And it's one of the most interesting tech sessions that we have during the ICANN processes here or the ICANN meetings here. Because a lot of it is otherwise focused on policy activities.

There's a plenary session about who sets ICANN's priorities. And that will be on Tuesday, June the 14th, 8:30 to 10 o'clock UTC. I'm sorry. I'm mixing up my time zones. it was 20:00 UTC and 8:30 to 10:30 UTC.

And here we have the next session I would highly recommend trying to join is a discussion forum about geopolitical legislative and regulatory issues that are affecting ICANN on a global basis. And also affecting Internet governance globally. So this will be an update from our government engagement experts, the staff group that looks after this. It's a very important topic for ICANN ongoing. So please take a look at this.

And that is the end of the updates. Carlos, you're an expert on this. If there's anything you'd like to add, please do. And if not, we can move along to the next slide.

I think that's next slide and over to you, Fernanda. Thank you.

FERNANDA IUNES:

Thanks, Adam. Good afternoon from Washington, DC. My name is Fernanda Iunes. And I'm the program coordinator of the Public Responsibility Support Department here at ICANN. Next slide, please, Magali.

Thank you. While being a newcomer at ICANN can sometimes feel a little bit overwhelming, we have many resources available to help you make the most of the opportunity to participate. And, as I'm sure you can tell from this call already, there are many people who would be happy to help you find your way, too.

A great resource for you to begin your ICANN journey is our free online learning platform called ICANN Learn, which Adam mentioned a little bit at the beginning of the session. If you haven't done so already, you can sign up and start taking a few courses right from the start. There you can find training on ICANN processes and policies, as well as technical topics and skill-building courses. These will help you maximize your participation in the work of the ICANN Community, too.

There are also other ways to connect and boost your ICANN knowledge. You can sign up for your regional newsletter, which will give you ICANN information relevant to your particular part of the world. You can follow

us on social media accounts. Which will be listed on the final slide of this session.

And you've probably already registered for ICANN74. But if you bookmark that Meetings page it'll help you navigate the schedule. Note that the participation links for the sessions are only posted 24 hours in advance for security reasons. Also note that you can access the presentations from any session within the schedule as well. As Carlos mentioned earlier, too.

If you haven't used Zoom before, there's information in the Meetings page to help you set it up, to participate efficiently. Just a quick tip—it takes a few clicks to get into the sessions. So be sure to just give yourself a few minutes to get settled when you want to attend a session.

You may also want to explore our Newcomers web page. And from there you can learn more about our NextGen@ICANN program that's for university students. As well as our Fellowship program that's designed to help participants from all over the world participate fully in ICANN meetings. My colleague Siranush will be giving you some more information about those programs next.

Acronyms are also a challenge in any new environment. And ICANN in particular is full of them. So it can be very helpful to bookmark the Acronym and Terms page, so you can reference them quickly when they're unfamiliar to you. As Adam said as well, it's also totally fine to encourage people to explain the acronyms they're using. We're all trying to get better at that. But it takes some time.

Other web pages you may want to note include our Communities page, Policy—

ADAM PEAKE: Sorry to interrupt, Fernanda. Could you slow down a bit? I know I was really bad as well, so I'm—

FERNANDA IUNES: Sorry, no problem.

ADAM PEAKE: ... setting a really bad example.

FERNANDA IUNES: No problem.

ADAM PEAKE: Thank you.

FERNANDA IUNES: Other web pages you may want to note include our Communities page, Policy Development Support, and Technical Functions page. Each of which can give you some great insight into the complexity of ICANN. And also how the various teams and community groups come together to achieve the great Internet policy development work that gets done here at ICANN. Thanks.

ADAM PEAKE: Thank you very much. And I think we can move along to our next speaker, which is Siranush. Siranush, hello.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hi, everyone. And a warm welcome to all newcomers, to all Fellows, and to all NextGeners, and all participants of this session.

Good evening from Yerevan, Armenia. My name is Siranush Vardanyan. And I am managing the Fellowship program at ICANN. Next slide, please.

I will be focusing on what are the expected sessions for Fellows and NextGen@ICANN participants to join us in The Hague and virtually. Carlos and Adam mentioned earlier about notable sessions, which I'm sure everybody took notes of that to participate.

So to start with the Prep Week. And this is the first session for the ICANN74 Prep Week. We have couple of mandatory sessions assigned to Fellows and NextGen@ICANN program participants to join. All the other sessions are encouraged based on the sector of interest and definitely based on the time zone.

So we planned this meeting, actually, as indeed hybrid one. So some sessions will be taking place virtually, the special sessions focused for Fellows and NextGen@ICANN. And some sessions will be done in person in The Hague.

And the first one of the sessions which we will be running virtually will be on Tuesday, 7th of June. The Art of Small Talk: An Interactive Session with Melissa Allgood. And this will be focused for the ICANN74 Fellows. Next slide, please.

So there are two special sessions planned on Monday, 13th of June. When we will be in person there. And one is How the ICANN Policy Works. And our colleagues from the policy team will talk about the specifics of the way how the policy works in ICANN. And the same day we also invited several ICANN Community representatives to interact with ICANN74 Fellows on getting involved with ICANN policy, the first steps how you can be a part of the policy development process.

On Tuesday, as mentioned by my colleagues, there will be plenary session, which is assigned for Fellows and NextGeners as mandatory session to participate.

On that Tuesday and Wednesday, as you can see on the slide, NextGen@ICANN program participants will do their presentations. So I encourage everyone who is there in person attend the sessions and learn from the NextGen@ICANN participants about their own projects.

And on Wednesday, 15th of June, there will be a consensus playbook interactive session for ICANN74 Fellows. So this will be interactive session at 12:30 till 14:00 UTC time. As this is a policy forum, all ICANN Fellows for ICANN74 are alumni of the program which means for the Fellowship program we will not have newcomers.

But we have all NextGen@ICANN program participants, for whom this will be their first ICANN meeting. Thus we encourage them to participate in all the sessions and sign up from the meeting schedule for the sessions, based on their sector of interest. And definitely we encourage to participate in daily coffee breaks and networking receptions. Which will be taking place every evening and twice a day for coffee breaks.

That's all from my part. Back to you, Adam.

ADAM PEAKE:

Thank you, Siranush. One very quick question from you. It's in the chat from Andre and saying, "Is it possible to get the link for the 7th June session?" So you have that on your penultimate slide, I think, mentioned. But I'm sure we'll be able to sort that out with Andre.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Yes, definitely.

ADAM PEAKE:

Thank you for that.

And, yeah, if we go to the very last slide—thanks, Magali—there's various ways to contact us. You'll have seen that all of the staff members, when in our introductory slides—and these slides will be made available on the Prep Week website. You'll see that we've all put our email addresses. And it's a very common format. It's first name dot family name @ICANN.org. And we're always wanting to hear from you.

So please get in touch. And if you see us around at the ICANN74 meeting, if you happen to be there in person, it would be great to talk to you. So please don't hesitate to do that.

So our last 10 minutes are for question and answer. And I wonder if there are questions. I don't see any in the Q & A pod. But this is the first meeting of Prep Week. And people might not be used to using all the different options that we have for asking questions and comments.

But if there's anything anybody would like to say, from the participants or from the fellow panelists here, then now's your chance. Maarten, are you eager to make a comment?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Well, pending questions, of course. Thanks again for this introductory session. Which again, yes, to me being used to the acronyms by now sounds very familiar. It is truly something to get into and to lose your heart and to really get busy with this.

As you've heard from all the people that have been speaking here, they're not just supporting you. They're here in it because they love the work and they believe in the mission that we carry out together. So really, really looking forward to your diving in. There's so much online that you can access already.

And, yeah, don't hesitate if you're in The Hague to ask us any questions directly as well. Me and my colleague Board members will be very happy to talk to you. It may seem like different world but fewer people, too. And this is something we need to do together so thanks for joining.

ADAM PEAKE:

Thanks, Maarten. Yes, is there anything, any comments, any questions from anybody, any of the participants? Would any of my fellow panelists have anything additional to say?

I think, from my part living in The Hague, if you're coming here then we're looking forward, I hope, to some glorious weather and opportunities to meet outside as well as in the venue to try and keep ourselves as COVID safe as possible. We're hoping these threats and concerns have reduced. But they've not gone away entirely. So we want to keep you safe, so that you can most of all get home on time to your friends and families.

If there's anything else, please let me know. Anybody else? Ah, I see some things in the question and answer here.

So from Sunny—and thank you very much, Sunny, for the question—“Considering the spirit of multistakeholderism and bottom-up approach in ICANN policy development, is consensus hard to achieve?”

Thanks, and that is a very good and timely question. So I wonder who would like to pick up on that one first, one of my colleagues here. Carlos from the policy team or, let's see. Put you on the spot.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

I don't mind because basically, if there's consensus if there's truly consensus throughout the Community, our job at the Board is so easy. Because then we're just going to do that. And indeed it's not always

easy. And we find that within the board, within the Community, because we are a very diverse group. And together we'll be able to get the closest to a good solution.

So whereas it's not necessarily easy—although some cases are-- the key is in respectful behavior, in listening to each other, in taking each other into account and take it from there. Because in the end we are here to make the Internet work together. So hope that helps a little bit.

ADAM PEAKE:

Thank you, yes. And as issues get more complex—and we do have some very complex issues involving regulation and significant changes to the domain name system—then decisions and agreement is sometimes harder to achieve.

I remember from the early 2000s when I was a Community Member that some of the things we did were quite easy to pass through. Because they were common sense. And everybody reached agreement.

Any other comments about this particular topic or any other questions? I think the answer is probably no. So let me just have a quick look at the chat and I don't see anything additional there.

So I think we can save you five minutes, which is very nice, because we have the long Prep Week and then an even longer ICANN meeting. So thank you very much, everybody, for joining us today. Thank you to all the panelists. And, yeah, thank you to all the newcomers and some of the not-so-newcomers I also see participating.

Really looking forward to seeing you in The Hague and seeing you online as well. So thank you very much for today. Thank you, interpreters. And thank you, Magali. And thank you, tech support. Thank you for all your help. Thank you and bye-bye.

I think we can close the recording. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]